GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2686
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Novel Dengue Control Method
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes, collaborate with Australia's agencies for a project that will use bacteria to kill the disease transmitting ability of a mosquito species which afflicts thousands of people with dengue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formed a task force to implement the technological breakthrough provided by Australian experts to manipulate mosquitoes and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering to work out other ideas to control the spread of mosquito-borne diseases and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of deaths due to Dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases and other corrective measures taken in this regard during the last three years in India, State/UT-wise?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c): A Task Force on Dengue control has been formulated and ICMR has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Monash University, Australia under the "Eliminate Dengue Program Collaboration" on 7th February, 2017. The collaboration with Monash University proposes to develop a strategy and test the efficacy of Wolbachia−based Ae. aegypti (mosquito transmitting dengue) control in India. Wolbachia are bacteria that are naturally found in a few insects including mosquitoes. Among mosquitoes they have not been naturally found in Ae.aegypti and Anopheles species.

The mosquito strains with Wolbachia are considered Biological Control Agents for vector borne diseases control.

(d) to (e): The Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is the nodal agency for implementation of National Programme for Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) including control and prevention of outbreaks of VBDs.

The National Institute of Virology, Pune has developed an indigenous Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine JenVac in public private partnership with Bharat Biotech.

The Government of India has initiated vaccination with Chinese JE vaccine SA-14-14-2 in endemic districts of India in 2006 against Japanese Encephalitis. The number of deaths due to Dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases during the last three years in India, State/UT-wise is given at Annexure.